

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The text of all pending claims, including withdrawn claims, is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please ADD new claims 21, 22 and 23, AMEND claims 2, 4, 6, 7-9, 12, 14, and 16-20 and cancel claims 1, 3, 5, 11, 13 and 15, in accordance with the following:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently amended) The optical disc of claim ~~14~~, wherein the sheet has an annular shape.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently amended) ~~The optical disc of claim 3, wherein~~ An optical disc, for information recording and/or reproduction using light, having a center hole, the disc being divided into a clamping area adjacent to and surrounding the center hole, a data area in which data is recorded, and a lead-in area between the clamping area and the data area, the optical disc comprising:
at least one sheet attached to the clamping area to prevent generation and development of cracks near the center hole, the clamping area is being recessed such that a surface of the sheet attached to the clamping area is leveledlevel with or lower than a surface of the lead-in area.
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently amended) The optical disc of claim ~~14~~, wherein the sheet is of paper or other frictional flexible materials.

7. (Currently amended) The optical disc of claim ~~34~~, wherein the sheet is attached to the clamping area using an adhesive or a double-sided tape.

8. (Currently amended) The optical disc of claim ~~34~~, wherein the clamping area is recessed by a depth equal to or greater than a thickness of the sheet.

9. (Currently amended) The optical disc of claim ~~4~~, wherein the sheet does not protrude above a top surface of the optical disc.

10. (Original) The optical disc of claim 8, wherein the sheet does not protrude above a top surface of the optical disc.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently amended) The optical disc of claim ~~41~~14, wherein the material has an annular shape.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled) ~~The optical disc of claim 13, wherein the clamping area is recessed such that a surface of the material attached to the clamping area is leveled with or lower than a surface of the lead-in area. An optical disc having a center hole, the optical disc comprising:~~
a material attached to a surface of the optical disc in an area surrounding the center hole to prevent generation and development of cracks near the center hole, the surface of the area surrounding the center hole to which the material is attached being recessed such that a surface of the sheet is level with or lower than a surface of the disk where the material is not attached.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Currently amended) The optical disc of claim ~~41~~14, wherein the material is paper or other frictional flexible materials.

17. (Currently amended) The optical disc of claim ~~43~~16, wherein the material is attached to the ~~clamping-area~~ surrounding the center hole using an adhesive or a double-sided tape.

18. (Currently amended) The optical disc of claim ~~43~~16, wherein the ~~clamping-area~~ to which the material is attached is recessed by a depth equal to or greater than a thickness of the material.

19. (Currently amended) The optical disc of claim ~~41~~14, wherein the material does not protrude above a top surface of the optical disc.

20. (Currently amended) The optical disc of claim 18, wherein the material does not protrude above a top surface of the optical disc.

21. (New) An optical disc having a center hole, a clamping area adjacent to the center hole and a data area in which data is recorded, the optical disc comprising:

at least one paper-like sheet attached to and surrounding the center hole to prevent generation and development of cracks in the optical disc.

22. (New) The optical disc of claim 21, wherein the paper-like sheet is made of paper.

23. (New) The optical disc of claim 21, wherein the height of the paper-like sheet which protrudes above the clamping area, including a thickness of an adhesive applied thereto, may be no greater than 0.3mm.